

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-20 are amended, claim 2 is canceled, and claim 21 is added. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the original claims and in the specification at page 3, lines 29-31, and page 13, line 26 to page 14, line 5. No new matter is added.

In reply to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, with traverse. At least claims 1, 3-10, and 21 read on the elected invention.

PCT Rule 13.1 provides that an "international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept." PCT Rule 13.2 states:

Where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

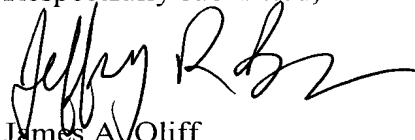
The Office Action asserts that the special technical feature common to the claims is a "catalyst system which is obtainable from at least one bismuth compound and at least one aromatic nitrogen compound." Applicants respectfully disagree.

An examination of all the claims would indicate that the catalyst for polyurethane compositions as set forth in claim 18 is common to all the claims. Although original claim 1 is not limited to the catalysts set forth in claim 18, claim 1 is generic and encompasses the catalysts of claim 18. As such, the "technical relationship" between claim 1 and claim 18, or between all the claims, is more than a "catalyst system which is obtainable from at least one bismuth compound and at least one aromatic nitrogen compound;" instead, it is at least the catalyst system set forth in original claims 2 and 18.

Therefore, to better define this technical feature, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. The Office Action cites U.S. Patent No. 4,786,655 to Grogler et al. (herein "Grogler") as disclosing a catalyst system having bismuth salts used in combination with low molecular weight aromatic amines. However, Grogler fails to disclose a catalyst system comprising the aromatic nitrogen compounds of formulas A or B as set forth in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that there is nothing of record that establishes that the catalyst system defined by amended claim 1 fails to define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of claims 1 and 3-21 on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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